

NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. To correct a typographical error in claim 1 line 11 delete "the work rill" and insert --the work roll--

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

It is the opinion of the examiner that the art of record (considered as a whole) neither anticipates nor renders obvious "wherein the pressure-transmitting element (12) is supported directly on the rolling stand (6) by a vertical guide (18) provided on the rolling stand" in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations set forth in claim 1.

Bohnenkamp (EP Patent # 256410) discloses a rolling device with at least two work rolls (2, 3), each of which is supported by a work roll chock (4, 5) in a rolling stand (1), wherein at least one of the work rolls (2, 3) in the rolling stand (1) can be adjusted, especially in the vertical direction, for the purpose of adjusting a desired roll gap relative to the other work roll (2, 3), wherein at least one work roll (2, 3) is operatively connected with bending devices (14), by which a bending moment can act on the work roll (2, 3), and wherein the work roll chock (4, 5) has arms that project laterally relative to the axis of the work roll (2, 3) for absorbing the force

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produced by the bending device (14) wherein a pressure-transmitting element (20), which can be shifted relative to the rolling stand (1), especially in the vertical direction, is installed between an element (16) of the bending device (14) that generates compressive force, especially a piston, and the projecting arm of the work chock (4, 5), such that the bending devices (14) are mounted in a block (12) rigidly mounted on the rolling stand (1), and the pressure-transmitting element (20) is supported on the block (12) by means of a guide, especially a vertical guide (24), and such that the pressure-transmitting element (20) has a U-shaped horizontal cross section and surrounds the block (12), at least partially, on three sides [See FIG 3], and the pressure-transmitting element (20) has an L-shaped vertical cross section perpendicular to the axis of the work roll (2, 3) and at least partially surrounds the upper side of the block (12) [See FIG 2], wherein the pressure-transmitting element (20) is supported by vertical guide (24) and block (12).

Giacomoni (US Patent # 4,934,166) discloses a rolling stand having a work roll (1) supported by a work roll chock (3) having arms (32) that project laterally relative to the axis of the work roll (1) wherein the work roll chock arm (32) extends over a bending device having an element (6) such that the element (6) of the bending device that generates compressive force and the projecting arm (32) of the work roll chock (3) are positioned in such a way that the center axis (60) of the element (6) that generates compressive force intersects the projecting arm.

The prior art, neither alone nor in combination, anticipates nor renders obvious the claimed invention, and no motivation is found to modify the prior art to obtain the claimed invention of claim 1. There is no motivation to modify the prior art because neither Bohnenkamp nor Giacomoni suggest or teach directly supporting the pressure-transmitting element on the

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rolling stand by a vertical guide provided on the rolling stand. Furthermore, such a modification to Bohnenkamp would destroy the invention since it would require a complete rearrangement of the invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Debra Sullivan whose telephone number is (571) 272-1904. The examiner can normally be reached Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dana Ross can be reached at (571) 272-4480. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Debra M Sullivan/
Examiner, Art Unit 3725